LIS 525

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Technology Essay

Technology plays a significant role in the effective communication of information a school library media specialist must present to the school community. Staying current with the technologies that enable the SLMS to do this is an essential aspect of the job. Information and instructional technologies improve teaching and learning and provide access to digital resources for the school community while connecting the school with the global learning community. The media specialist’s technology skills should be maintained at a level that will allow her to implement and guide others in the use of these technologies.

The first artifact that I included in the technology portion of my professional portfolio is a Prezi on author Robert Cormier that I created for LIS 535 Resources and Services for Young Adults. This was the first time I used Prezi and while I still prefer Powerpoint, I know many students who are crazy about creating and learning with Prezi. Using Prezi as a presentation tool is very popular in schools at the present time. It’s an effective presentation tool that is also fairly easy to use and could be taught to students as early as fourth grade. Prezi engages students in creating a unique presentation format that can then be published online. The nonlinear format of the tool stimulates creative thinking in the presentation of information and is, therefore, an important skill to have in your professional toolbox. I will hold workshops to teach students and faculty how to use this presentation tool.

The second artifact I included in the technology portion of my portfolio is a link to a blog that I created for LIS 506 Introduction to Information Technology. We explored many Web 2.0 tools in that course but the blog really rose to the top as one of the most promising in its application, ease of use, and flexibility. As blogging tools become more sophisticated they are replacing standard HTML websites for many people looking to create an internet presence. Sites like Blogger (now owned by Google) and Wordpress allow the novice technology user to publish content and receive feedback from their audience in real time. Blogs are a great way to publish newsletters, information about the library media center, news about the library media program or anything you want the school community to know about. I will use a professional blog as a publishing tool in my own LMC to address the school community about library news and information and to solicit feedback about the library and its program. Teaching students and faculty how to set up and manage blogs for education will be a technology workshop that I will offer to my school community.

The third artifact I included is a link to a personal website that I created for LIS 506 Introduction to Information Technology. I learned how to use Dreamweaver for the creation of this website and became somewhat familiar with working in HTML. I also explored other website building platforms like WIX that offers drag n’ drop website building withHTML5 capabilities. These newer website building platforms are worth exploring and start to blur the lines between blogs and websites. I will continue to monitor these tools as possible alternatives to expensive, difficult to use programs like Dreamweaver in the creation of websites. These tools may prove especially useful for students interested in creating a personal academic website that showcases their work and interests to prospective colleges and employers.